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SOME WONDERFUL HOME GARDENS

U.S. Department of Agriculture

A radio talk by Mr. C. P. Close, Extension Service, delivered through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, January 22, 1930 at 1:35 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

In gardening as in other lines of work, it is always interesting to know what results other people are getting. In this short talk I shall give some wonderful garden records, hoping that they will cause you to do as well with your garden this year as the gardeners mentioned have done. If you will keep a record of expenses, and the value of crops harvested, you may be happily surprised to find yourself among the top notchers in garden profits this year.

The Southern States have kept more garden records than any other section, so all of these records are taken from the Sunny South. The gardeners there have the advantage of a very long growing season, and have many all-year gardens. In fact, in 1927 and 1928 there were 63,732 people growing all-year gardens for the first time.

All of the records which follow were made in 1928:

Mrs. J. B. Mayes, of Mississippi, had a garden of less than one-third of an acre. She grew 25 different kinds of vegetables and fed a family of four people three kinds of vegetables per day from February 1st to December 1st. The value of vegetables eaten, sold and canned, was \$253.34. Thus this little garden was worth as much as the gross value of seven acres of average cotton.

Another garden made by a Mississippi woman has a fine record. This garden was 66 x 100 feet. An acre would make six and one-half gardens of this size. On November 1st there were 28 different kinds of vegetables still growing. This garden fed seven people all summer and yielded vegetables for canning, and root crops to store for winter. The surplus of crops sold for \$236. It would take 12 acres of an average crop of corn selling at \$1.00 per bushel, to bring in as much money as this little garden netted, after feeding seven people all summer and winter.

Here are two good records from North Carolina.

Mrs. A. A. Moore had a one-acre garden from which she supplied nine people, canned 294 quarts, sold \$945.28 worth, and fed the surplus to 60 chickens. The sales alone amounted to as much as the gross value of 47 acres of average corn selling at \$1.00 per bushel.

Mrs. Clarence Vincent had three-fourths of an acre in her garden. She supplied a family of eleven, gave away a great deal to friends, fed a considerable amount to stock, and then sold \$280.35 worth. Her sales were equal to the gross value of 14 acres of average corn at \$1.00 per bushel.

The gardens mentioned thus far were all operated by women, and I was

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curious to know if our records show that women are better gardeners than men. Here are some results for comparison with gardens the same size and feeding the same number of people. These were in South Carolina. Due to lack of time only two comparisons can be given.

Mr. R. A. Milan had a one-fourth acre garden, a family of six, served vegetables at 273 meals, canned 26 quarts, and sold \$103.39 worth of surplus crops. Mrs. J. L. Stone had the same sized garden and family, served vegetables at 687 meals, canned 94 quarts, and sold \$69.55 worth.

Mr. E. M. White had a one-fourth acre garden, a family of four, served vegetables 341 times, canned 30 quarts, and sold \$45.50 worth. Mrs. R. D. McDonald had the same sized garden and family, served vegetables at 486 meals, canned 117 quarts, and sold \$78.56 worth.

In these comparisons the women show larger results than the men, but the men have some splendid records and here is one which equals that of any of the women. Mr. J. W. Dickson had a quarter-acre garden, a family of ten, served vegetables 556 times, canned 450 quarts, and then sold \$220.30 worth. His sales equal the gross value of 11 acres of average corn at \$1.00 per bushel.

The climax of this garden talk is the record of a little garden 100 x 125 feet in Mississippi. From this garden a family of eight persons consumed \$235.00 worth of vegetables, canned \$25.00 worth, and sold \$593.34 worth, making a total value of \$853.34 from less than one-third of an acre. This little garden had a money value equal to an average crop of cotton from 25 acres.

I could go on indefinitely but I believe you will agree that these are wonderful garden records.